

**CITY OF SANDPOINT**  
**2018-2019**  
**SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

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**Priorities**

When heavy snow events or other irregular events occur, the program is unable to deliver the accustomed level of service to all public streets, and operations must instead focus on available resources on the streets most traveled and on those that provide essential services. It is impractical, physically and fiscally, to give all streets an equal level of services and maintain near continuous coverage.

The need to provide the greatest level of safety and benefit to the traveling public, in an efficient manner, necessitate that priority be given to certain heavily used streets above others less traveled. Streets with higher intensity use have a higher priority for snow removal service. Residential streets which require proportionally more time for snow removal for the amount of traffic served have a lower priority.

Therefore, City streets have been divided into the following three snow removal priority, as reflected on the Priority Map:

**PRIORITY 1:** These are arterial and major collector streets, generally with a right-of-way width of 40 feet or more and average daily traffic greater than 3,000 and includes approximately 32 lane miles. Also included in this category are streets serving emergency response facilities, schools, and streets with hills and sharp curves where traction problems may cause hazardous driving conditions. Priority 1 streets are represented by yellow on the map.

**PRIORITY 2:** These are streets generally located within the downtown business core, typically with a pavement width of at least 36 feet and includes approximately 9 lane miles. Priority 2 streets are represented by green. Typically, this area will be serviced after Priority 1 streets are passable; in the event conditions change, resources may need to return to Priority 1 streets prior to completing Priority 2 streets.

**PRIORITY 3:** All other streets not designated as either Priority 1 or 2 streets includes approximately 64 lane miles of primarily residential streets. Typically, this area will be serviced after Priority 1 and 2 streets are passable; in the event conditions change, resources may need to return to Priority 1 and 2 streets prior to completing Priority 3 streets.

**PATHS & PARKING LOTS:** The City currently removes snow and ice from 6.5 miles of pathways and nearly a dozen City owned parking lots. Majority of this work is performed by Parks & Recreation personnel. Parking lots serviced by Public Works are limited to: City Hall, Sandcreek (weekends only) and the Interpretive Trail off Superior.

## **On-Street Parking**

This section shall not be interpreted to allow on-street parking in areas where parking is otherwise restricted by existing signage or any other provision of City Code. All parked vehicles on the streets must be cleaned of snow for visibility within 24 hours of any storm. Vehicles left on streets during parking prohibitions are subject to removal (towing) by the Sandpoint Police Department.

- **Priority 1 Streets**

On-street parking is restricted to only the even side of the street, unless designated otherwise, from December 1st through March 1st.

- **Priority 2 Streets**

On-street parking is prohibited in the downtown Business Sector from 2-6 AM from November 1st through March 1st, unless posted differently.

- **Priority 3 Streets**

On-street parking is restricted to only the even side of the street, unless designated otherwise, from December 1st through March 1st.

- **City-Wide, No Parking Order for Emergencies**

When snow fall has accumulated or is expected to accumulate on public streets in an amount sufficient to pose a hazard to the health, safety, and/or welfare of the inhabitants and/or property of City, the Public Works Director and Police Chief may issue a City-Wide No Parking Order. The No Parking Order will communicate which zones of town and what times apply.

The Mayor may rescind a No Parking Order at any time with or without the consent of Council. The Council may rescind a No Parking Order at any time by a majority vote. The No Parking Order shall become effective upon the date and time stated in the announcement, provided, that, in no event shall such restrictions become effective before the expiration of not less than twelve (12) hours following the broadcast at least once by any radio announcement and notification on both social media and Engage Sandpoint.

## **Mailboxes and Fences**

Mailboxes damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mail boxes that were properly located and installed in accordance with City of Sandpoint and United States Postal Service standards, and which were damaged by actual contact with City equipment, will be considered for repair at city expense. Fences in the right of way may be damaged by snow operations. The City is not responsible for damage to fences and landscaping that are located within the street right of way.

## **Depositing snow on public roadways**

It is unlawful to deposit snow upon public roadways. Piles of snow left on or near the roadway can freeze into a solid mass, creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Collisions and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

## **Assistance to stranded motorists**

City personnel may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement or emergency personnel; personnel shall not remove vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.

## **Use of Gates**

City graders are equipped with snow gates to reduce the amount of snow plowed in front of driveways. The use of snow gates may narrow roadways, especially as the winter continues, since the plows can no longer reach all the way to the curb; therefore, the following applies to the use of snow gates:

- Snow gates are used city-wide when the snow fall is less than 4-inches
- The use of snow gates may be suspended during snow events in which the snow is greater or wetter than their use would be effective.
- Snow gates will not be used in front of vehicles, mailboxes, or trash cans
- Removal of the accumulation of a snow berm created by the City snow plow operations at private driveway entrances is the responsibility of the individual homeowner or property owner.

## **Trash Cans**

Residents shall not place containers in the street until it has been cleared. Waste Management is able to reach containers at a distance of approximately 20 feet; residents are encouraged to consider placing trash can in their driveways and off of the street between December 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Sidewalks and Pathways**

It is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain the sidewalk in front of their home or business and keep the sidewalk clear of snow and ice.



## Snow and Ice Control Routes

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Roads not maintained by City
- Plowed Multi-use Trails

